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Sensitometric Strips

Sensitometric information is required to permit the optical transfer function to be derived from edge gradients. When the sensitometry is absolute, rather than relative, the modulation reduction due to atmospheric scattering can be more thoroughly understood. Both calculations become more immune to processing variations if the sensitometric strips are printed frequently on the film. It seems desirable to print these strips with each frame since this "viewing unit" then carries its own brightness calibration in a convenient way that permits the photointerpreter to obtain brightness and exposure information, regardless of the print generation, without inexact and time consuming consultation of the processing records; and also, such a frequency of strips assures that the information is at the beginning and end of each pass, as well as at the middle, thus possibly assisting in the understanding of radiation fogging, corona, desiccation and related effects.

The sensitometric strips can be applied on the ground or during camera operation. The ground application should have the advantage of simplicity. Application during operation has the advantage that the sensitometric strip latent image experiences an environmental history identical to the scene image. It is recommended that both methods be tested, using a recoverable camera system, to compare the practical consequences.

[Note: Specification for an airborne sensitometer furnished
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